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NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 65

Release Date: November 4, 2005

Judicial Council Recognizes November as Court Adoption and Permanency Month

Resolution Adopted Today Reinforces Commitment to Finding Permanent Homes for Children

San Francisco—The Judicial Council today adopted a resolution declaring November as Court Adoption and Permanency Month, an annual event that encourages courts to take special measures to address adoption and permanency in their counties. The month of November was selected to coincide with National Adoption Month.

“Court Adoption and Permanency Month serves as a vehicle for the courts to raise awareness, demonstrate commitment, and bring about changes in the court system to place more foster children in permanent homes,” said Chief Justice Ronald M. George, Chair of the Judicial Council.

Each year in California, there are more than 491,000 reports of child abuse and neglect and more than 27,000 children enter foster care. Currently, almost 96,000 children are living apart from their families in out-of-home care. Of these children, 34 percent do not leave the foster care system within four years.

The Judicial Council has collected information since 1999 about best practices and procedures that courts and county agencies have successfully implemented. This reference is compiled in a Court Adoption and Permanency Month Technical Assistance Package, which contains general guidelines for planning events and activities and suggests actions that promote adoption and permanency. The materials have been sent to state courts and are available to the public upon request.

Adoption Saturday is an annual event at which courts and communities join together to finalize adoptions of children in foster care. These events are traditionally held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Several courts have already planned Adoption Saturday activities, including the following:

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- The Superior Court of Los Angeles County, originator of the Adoption Saturday movement both in California and nationally, will conduct its 21st Adoption Saturday on November 19.
- The Superior Court of Tulare County has been growing a “Family Tree” since 2002, in addition to holding Adoption Saturday celebrations on November 19.
- The Superior Court of Alameda County will celebrate adoption month by hosting an Adoption Saturday reception on November 19 for adoption workers and staff, and families who are adopting. Up to 20 judges also will attend.
- The Superior Court of Placer County will hold its third annual celebration on November 19 in its historic courthouse. Food, music, and games will follow adoption finalization ceremonies in the morning.

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

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